

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03
ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00
CCO-00 OTPE-00 EB-08 FCC-01 OC-06 COME-00 BIB-01
/088 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM: EREHFELD
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM: SJLEDOGAR
ASD/C3I: DR. DINEEN
OSD/ISA: CAPT. MCMICHAEL
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P 102259Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 173741

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MARR, ETEL

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR SPECIAL NJCEC MEETING, JULY 14, 1978

REFS: (A) USNATO 6545 (B) NAC 4788

1. YOUR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN REF A WERE MOST
HELPFUL. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED FOR USE
DURING MEETING.

A. WE CANNOT ACCEPT PROPOSALS FOR NATO SATCOM IV
WHICH ARE MORE EXPENSIVE AND ENTAIL MORE PRODUCTION,
TECHNICAL, OPERATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT RISKS THAN THE
DSCS III. THERE ARE MANY HIGH-PRIORITY PROJECTS
ELIGIBLE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING, WE ARE UNDER
CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM CONGRESS TO FUND THEM
UNDER THE NATO INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM, AND IT IS
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INCONCEIVABLE TO USE THE INADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE
FUNDS WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE FOR THE NEXT
FIVE YEARS FOR A MORE EXPENSIVE UNPROVEN SATCOM
SYSTEM WHEN A LESS EXPENSIVE AND RELIABLE SYSTEM
WHICH MEETS ALL NATO REQUIREMENTS IS AVAILABLE.

B. IT IS APPARENT THAT THERE IS NO RATIONAL REASON

FOR OPTING FOR THE MORE EXPENSIVE AND HIGHER RISK APPROACH, BUT ONLY A DESIRE BY SOME OF OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES TO SELECT A EUROPEAN SYSTEM FOR POLITICAL REASONS. INASMUCH AS IT IS CLEAR THAT THE DSCS III IS SUPERIOR IN NEARLY EVERY RESPECT, AND CONSIDERABLY CHEAPER, YOU SHOULD DO NOTHING TO FACILITATE AN NJCEC OR POSSIBLE LATER DPC DECISION TO OPT FOR A MORE EXPENSIVE AND HIGHER RISK APPROACH.

2. YOU SHOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SUPPORT BY OTHERS FOR OUR POSITION, OR YOU SHOULD PROPOSE AN APPROACH THAT ALLOWS DSCS III AND OTHER DESIGNS TO COMPETE UNDER ICB PROCEDURES. YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR DECISION ON HOW TO PROCEED BASED ON RESULTS OF YOUR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH KEY NATO OFFICIALS (SEE USNATO 6703).

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. YOU SHOULD AGREE TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULES FOR TARE AND IVSN (REF B).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, MILITARY COMMUNICATION, INSTRUCTIONS, MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE173741
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EREHFELD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780282-0841
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780777/aaaacnje.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 25616078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USNATO 6545
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2061186
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUIDANCE FOR SPECIAL NJCEC MEETING, JULY 14, 1978
TAGS: MARR, ETEL, US, NATO, NJCEC
To: USNATO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/25616078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014